

JENSEN STAYING FOCUSED ON HER MISSION

Even if Cindy Jensen weren't a friend, I'd admire her courage. Jensen, who had a third liver transplant last week at University Hospital and Clinics in Madison, Wis., granted a television interview a few days later.

Anyone who knows Jensen knows it's not like her to go on TV without makeup. Yet there she was, lying in her hospital bed, so weak her voice was barely a whisper. Cindy will forgive me for saying it, but I've seen her looking better.

Seriously, though, it's all a part of the mission, Jensen says. Her intention in granting media access every step of the way during her ordeal was to encourage organ donation. She invited cameras into the operating room as her diseased liver was removed and replaced. When she was unable to do interviews, her daughter, Andrea, and son, David, did them. By letting the public get to know her family during Jensen's life-or-death crisis, she personalized organ donation and showed why it is so important.

How like Jensen to turn something so difficult into something positive. Her campaign to educate the public about organ donation began several years ago, when she learned she suffered from primary biliary cirrhosis, a disease that causes the liver to deteriorate and, eventually, stop functioning.

She organized an annual organ fair at CherryVale Mall, and even as her own health deteriorated, she knocked herself out to ensure the event's success. Her positive attitude and smile make it easy for her friends to forget she was sick.

Finally, her condition became critical and a transplant was absolutely necessary. She went to University Hospital Jan. 2 for the first transplant. A blocked duct kept that liver from functioning properly, and she had a second transplant in early February. That liver never worked well for some unexplained reason, and Jensen's condition was deteriorating. She needed a third transplant to live. "I was dying," Jensen said Monday from University Hospital. "I knew I was running out of time."

A week after the procedure, Jensen is convinced she got her miracle. All indications are that this liver is functioning well, said Bob Hoffmann, the hospital's procurement and preservation director.

Jensen, meanwhile, is concentrating on getting strong enough to attend her own fundraiser Sunday at the Clock Tower Resort. The event is to help cover medical expenses, which haven't been totaled yet, but are expected to be hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The \$25 tickets are on sale through 5 p.m. Friday at the Clock Tower box office. The event, which begins at 4:30, features a silent auction, pasta dinner and dancing to the music of Wayward Wind.

People who can't attend the event but who want to make a contribution may send it to: Cindy Jensen Trust Fund, 5601 Knollwood Drive, Rockford, IL 61107.

"There's been a good reason for all of this," Jensen said Monday. "I know that when I hear people say they never considered being a donor and now they will be. I hear people say they stopped praying and now, they pray all the time. Other people have said, 'You've given me my faith back.'"

In spite of everything—or, maybe, because of it—her own faith remains intact.

"This liver is going to work beautifully," she said firmly on Monday. "God has brought me too far for it to be any other way."

Mr. Speaker, we come to the floor of this ennobled Chamber often more full of vitriol for our own political advantage. We seem to forget that we are not

here at cross purposes, rather that we are here for a common cause. We are here because we want to create jobs. We are here because we want to lessen the tax burden on the American people. We are here because we want to balance the budget. We are here because we all want our children to grow up well educated in a safe, clean, healthy environment. There is not one of us that comes to this well or enters the doors of this House Chamber who wants anything less. We simply have differences on how to reach those common goals.

We demean ourselves with the ugliness of partisanship. We are all guilty of that from time to time. In doing so, we, too, forget what is most important about our mission here.

I have taken this time today because I think that it is imperative that we remind ourselves of what is important—selflessness, courage, and the greater good.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House, I would like to wish a speedy recovery for Cindy Jensen.

MINIMUM WAGE NOW AT 40-YEAR LOW; AMERICA NEEDS A RAISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, America needs a raise. With the purchasing power of the minimum wage now approaching a 40-year low, America needs a raise. And just a few minutes ago we had an opportunity to vote on whether America should get a raise. Unfortunately, at the last minute the Gingrich leadership was able to twist enough arms, apply enough pressure, cajole enough Members, to succeed on a very narrow vote, and I think that one thing we can see from this vote, as disappointing as it is, the setback that it is to America, is that all Americans can now see that all that stands between them and this House of Representatives and a raise, all that stands between them and that raise, are 10 Republican Members and their votes, 10 Republican Members and their votes who were not willing to come forward this morning and cast a critical vote in favor of giving America a raise.

Now, what is particularly ironic about this development is the fact that there were some 15 Republican Members of this body who have already signed their name onto an increase in the minimum wage of even greater than that proposed by President Clinton, and yet those 15 Members, when they had an opportunity to come to the well of this House and cast a vote in favor of a raise for the American people, a vote that they have stood in front of the cameras and said they think the American people deserve, well, this morning they choose to vote against that raise.

It is a setback, and it is a disappointment to the people that are out there

this morning working in the nursing homes, washing dishes in the back of the restaurants, cleaning our buildings, and doing the other kinds of tasks that make life possible to go forward in America, and yet receiving the lowest wage that anyone in our country receives.

But, you know, despite this temporary setback, I remain hopeful about where we are headed in this country, hopeful because of what is happening in the budget process today. You see, it was only a year ago that Republicans came to the well of this House and demanded that we terminate the COPS Program. That is the program that is designed to get 100,000 law enforcement officers into our neighborhoods, and our streets to assure the security of our families and our businesses, and they said they did not want that program anymore.

It was only 1 year ago that the Republicans came to the well of this House, and they were saying, "You know, we have got to raise the cost of going to college for those middle-class families that are working and struggling with their young people to get them through college. What we have in mind is \$5,000 more for a Stafford loan for 4 years, the standard cost of a Federal loan to go to college." And the Republicans said, "We will place another obstacle in the way of those who are trying to educate their young people."

It was only 1 year ago that they were working to jeopardize the health care security of our seniors with their pay more, get less that they called a reform in the Medicare system, but to those seniors whose pocket was going to be invaded, to pay more, to get less, in their way of health care, who were going to face increases in premiums, increases in copayments, increases in deductible, it was a pretty heavy hit.

It was only 1 year ago that our Republican colleagues were here, indeed it was less than 1 year ago, demanding that we do further damage to the air and the water of this country with a series of very restrictive riders that they were placing on the Republican appropriations bill with reference to the environment. Indeed, they were working on that only within the last few weeks, and it was only 1 year ago, indeed only a few weeks ago, that Republicans were pursuing cuts in public education that in my hometown of Austin, TX, stood the costs about 2,300 of our youngest Texans, our pre-kindergarten children, to lose half of their pre-kindergarten program. It was the same kind of cutback that would have affected public education in a most detrimental way in our part of the country and really across this country.

What has happened in the course of that year? All of those mean-spirited, extremist initiatives, whether it was to permit more pollution of our air and water, to erect more obstacles to our young people with reference to their ability to get public education, to get a college education, whether it was the

threat to the security of health with reference to our oldest citizens, all of those initiatives, including the one concerning putting more law enforcement officers in our neighborhoods, all of those initiatives that the Gingrich leadership declared they had to have in order to have a revolution, they have now yielded on in this new budget bill.

REPORT FROM INDIANA: MURRAY WILSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my report from Indiana.

In the Second Congressional District of Indiana there are so many good people. Good people doing good things. In my book, these special individuals are Hoosier heros. Hoosier heros because they have dedicated their lives to helping others.

Mr. Speaker, Murray Wilson of Winchester, IN, is a Hoosier hero. He provides hope that one person can make a difference.

Murray Wilson has dedicated his life to raising support for local charities in his hometown. He knows in his heart that the greatest gift in life is to help others. During the day you'll find Murray washing dishes at D&J's Family Restaurant to provide for his wife, Debbie, and their 18-month-old daughter, Brittany. But his evenings are spent writing letters, rounding up pledges and championing his support drives.

Murray's efforts are sort of a legend. Ask anyone in Randolph County and they'll tell you: "Murray spends endless hours raising support for the March of Dimes, the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, the American Diabetes Association and the list goes on * * *."

But if you ask Murray Wilson why he has made his life-mission to raise support for charitable organizations, he'll humbly tell you, "I just like to help people." To me, Mr. Speaker, that is the true American spirit.

Reach out. Lend a helping hand. Try to make a difference.

Murray Wilson may never meet the individuals who benefit from his effort. But he knows in his heart, that he's making his community a better place by lending a helping hand for those less fortunate.

Murray Wilson continues to make a difference. And for that reason, Murray Wilson of Winchester, IN, is a Hoosier hero.

Mr. Speaker, that is my report from Indiana.

□ 1330

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO REPEAL LOGGING SALVAGE RIDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under a previous order of the

House, the gentlewoman from Oregon [Ms. FURSE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, last July it was about 10:30 at night, and this House passed the notorious timber salvage rider. That rider was slipped onto a bill that actually gave funding to the Oklahoma bombing victims. We knew at the time, some of us, that it was a bad idea, this bill. We knew this rider was a bad idea.

Yesterday, it just got worse, much worse. Yesterday, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the logging rider, which is called by the people of this country the lawless logging rider, that this logging rider, requires the Forest Service to immediately release for logging every timber sale ever offered in every national forest in Washington and Oregon since 1990, even though those sales were stopped because they are old growth sales in environmentally sensitive areas. Not only are they old growth sales, Mr. Speaker, but they are critical for endangered fish and wildlife.

Mr. Speaker, I want to tell people that this bill has been called the salvage rider, but let me tell the Members about some of the trees that are being cut. Some of those trees are nearly 1,000 years old. They are not salvage, they are the heritage of the people of this country. Those are trees on public land, land set aside for the people, and yet, under this lawless logging rider, under this rider, the people have been shut out. Under this rider, all laws that protect that public heritage have been suspended.

Mr. Speaker, although the Forest Service is talking about salvage, we find that in fact they are reclassifying some healthy forests as salvage. So not only is this lifting the laws, not only is this shutting out the American people, but it is also a lie, because these trees are not salvage, they are healthy.

I introduced on December 7 a repeal of the lawless logging rider, and I have been joined on a bipartisan basis by 139 cosponsors. Why did I introduce this repeal? First of all, I knew it was wrong, this bill, in the first place. But then the trees began to come down in my district. Then the letters began to pour in. I would like to mention, Mr. Speaker, some of those letters.

Here is one from a small woodland owner. He said: "I speak for a large, unheard constituency in this debate. We manage our property in a sound manner, economically and environmentally, and we object to the Government doing otherwise." He opposes the salvage rider.

Here is someone from Asheville, NC, who wrote to me and said:

Thank you for introducing the repeal of the rider. I have worked all my career as a forest entomologist. I can assure you that this bill is a Trojan horse intended to get at good timber. It has been a practice for 9 years that to get a timber operator to remove infested pine, it was tacitly agreed that he would get plenty of good timber as an incentive.

I have heard from someone who says that he is a business person: "If anyone tries to tell you that business interests oppose environmental interests, I will tell you that is old-fashioned bunk. I am a small business person and I object to the rider."

Then I got a letter from John Jonathan Alward. He said: "Please continue to fight the salvage logging law. I am a Boy Scout. I believe the law is bad because it allows logging companies to strip away the natural beauty of the Northwest."

Here is one from a grandfather, who says he is outraged, outraged that it passed last summer.

Then I have one from a 67-year-old grandmother, 40 years an Oregon resident. She says: "I love this State, and I am sickened by what Congress is allowing to happen to its natural beauty and its environment."

A biologist. This is not a special interest group, Mr. Speaker. This is the people of the United States who own this land, who own this timber. He says: "As a biologist, I am greatly concerned with the deleterious effect of the salvage rider."

So I introduced the repeal of the salvage rider. What does that mean? What does it mean to repeal the salvage rider? It means we just go back to the way it used to be with the laws that had been passed by the Congress protecting the public interest. What it means when we repeal the rider is that once again we put the law in the forest, and once again we put the public interest over the special interest. We need to protect public land. It is the American heritage. I urge my colleagues to join me in repealing the so-called salvage rider. Please support 2745. Repeal the lawless logging.

AMERICANS ARE PAYING MORE AND GETTING LESS FOR EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, in just a few hours the House of Representatives will probably decide one of the most important questions that has faced the Nation and this Congress. I have only been here for a little over 36 months, and there are some wonderful people in the House of Representatives that I have had the opportunity to serve with. I just wanted to give my observations of where we are at this moment as we decide on a budget, which is long overdue.

Congress, in fact, has been bankrupting our Nation with good intentions from some very well-meaning and well-intended people. The debate over the past 4 months has really been the most important debate in, I think, the last 40 years.

But we have found that in this debate, if we look at what has happened,